

REMARKS

In this amendment, Applicants add the related application information to the specification, cancel originally filed claims 1-16 and 58-65, amend original claims 17, 18, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33-36, 38, 40, 42, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, and 53 as described below, and add new claims 66-93.

Claim 17 has been amended to insert a comma at the end of the definition of -A-A-; to insert the word "and" in the definitions of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ , and  $R^9$ ; and to correct the definitions of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  as described below.

Claim 18 has been amended to add the phrase "of Formula IIIA" at the end of the definition of -B-B-.

Claim 21 and 53 have been amended to insert a comma at the end of the definition of -A-A-; to insert the word "and" in the definitions of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ , and  $R^9$ ; to correct the definitions of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  as described below; and to add the phrase "of Formula III" at the end of the definition of -B-B-. In addition, claim 21 has been amended to delete the definition of  $R^1$ .

Claim 23 has been amended to insert a comma at the end of the definition of -A-A-; to insert the word "and" in the definitions of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$ , and  $R^9$ ; to add the phrase "of Formula III" at the end of the definition of -B-B-; and to insert the word "and" in the definitions of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ , and  $R^7$ .

Claims 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35 have been amended to insert a comma at the end of the definition of -A-A-; to add the phrase "of Formula III" at the end of the definition of -B-B-; to insert the word "and" in the definitions of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ , and  $R^7$ . In addition, claims 33 and 35 have been amended to correct

obvious typographical errors by replacing "VIII" with "XXIII" in claim 33 and by replacing "XIII" with "XXIII" in claim 35.

Claim 34 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error by replacing "XXII" with "XXIII".

Claims 36 and 38 have been amended to insert a comma at the end of the definition of -A-A-; to add the phrase "of Formula III" at the end of the definition of -B-B-; to insert the word "and" in the definitions of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ , and  $R^7$ ; and to delete the definition of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$ . In addition, claim 36 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error by replacing "XIV" with "XXV".

Claim 40 has been amended to add the phrase "of Formula III" at the end of the definition of -B-B-; and to insert the word "and" in the definitions of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ , and  $R^7$ .

Claims 42, 47-50, and 52 have been amended to insert a comma at the end of the definition of -A-A-; to add the phrase "of Formula III" at the end of the definition of -B-B-; to insert the word "and" in the definitions of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ , and  $R^7$ ; and to add the definition of  $R^4$  and  $R^5$ . In addition, claims 42 and 47 have been amended to correct an obvious typographical error by replacing "[104]" with "104".

The definition of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  in claims 17, 21, and 53 has been corrected by replacing hydroxycarbonyl, alkyl and alkoxy carbonyl with hydroxy, hydroxycarbonylalkyl, and alkoxy carbonylalkyl. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in (i) original claims 2, 5, 8, 15, and 18, which clearly describe the hydroxy, hydroxycarbonylalkyl and alkoxy carbonylalkyl substituents in the amended definition of  $R^8$  and  $R^9$ ; (ii) the language of original claims 1, 4, 7, 14, 17, 21, and 64, that provides that  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  together may comprise a heterocyclic ring; (iii) the following statement found at page 22, lines 16-25 of the application:

Since the cyclic and open-chain forms, that is to say lactones and 17 $\beta$ -hydroxy-21-carboxylic acids and their salts, respectively, are so closely related to each other that the latter may be considered merely as a hydrated form of the former, there is to be understood hereinbefore and hereinafter, unless specifically stated otherwise, both in end products of the formula I and in starting materials and intermediates of analogous structure, in each case all the mentioned forms together;

and (iv) page 45, lines 9-11; page 49, line 20 through page 50, line 2; page 50, line 15 through page 51, line 3; and page 23, line 2 through page 26, line 2 of the application.

Support for new claims 66-93 may be found, for example, at pages 22-77 of the specification.

No new matter has been added by these amendments. Favorable consideration and early allowance of all pending claims is requested.

If there are any additional charges in this matter, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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